

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A computer-based method for displaying the status of networked resources, including:
2 rendering in a fishbone layout a hierarchy that includes a plurality of resource profiles
3 and a plurality of dependency relationships among resource profiles in the plurality of
4 resource profiles, where the resource profiles represent networked resources.
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- 6 2. The method of claim 1, further including:
7 acquiring a status of a monitored resource having a monitored resource profile in the
8 fishbone layout; and
9 updating the fishbone layout to reflect the status.
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- 11 3. The method of claim 2, wherein acquiring a status includes repeatedly acquiring the
12 status at regular intervals.
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- 14 4. The method of claim 3, wherein repeatedly acquiring the status includes acquiring
15 information about properties of the monitored resource that have changed in a most
16 recent interval among the regular intervals.
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- 18 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the monitored resource profile includes a propagation
19 rule for how the acquired status should propagate to dependent resource profiles in
20 consumer dependency relationships with the monitored resource profile; and
21 wherein updating the fishbone layout includes updating the rendering of the
22 dependent resource profiles.
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- 24 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the rendering first displays the fishbone layout in a
25 display panel, using a first density mode of the fishbone layout; and further including:
26 replacing the first density mode with a second density mode.
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- 28 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the replacing is in response to a change in the ratio of
29 members of the fishbone layout to a size of the display panel.
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- 31 8. The method of claim 6, wherein the first density mode of the fishbone layout is a
32 standard mode that renders a tier-two resource profile as a spine, and the second density
33 mode is a mode for rendering components of the fishbone layout at a higher density,
34 relative to the first density mode.
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- 36 9. The method of claim 6, wherein the first density mode of the fishbone layout is a mode
37 for rendering components of the fishbone layout at a higher density, relative to the second
38 density mode, and the second density mode is a standard mode that renders a tier-two
39 resource profile as a spine.
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- 41 10. The method of claim 6, wherein:
42 an instance of topological connectivity between a rendering of a first resource profile
43 and a rendering of a second resource profile in the fishbone layout corresponds to an
44 immediate dependency relationship between the first resource profile and the second
45 resource profile, and
46 an absence of topological connectivity between the rendering of a first resource
47 profile and a rendering of a third resource profile in the fishbone layout corresponds to an
48 absence of any immediate dependency relationship between the first resource profile and
49 the third resource profile.
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- 51 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the second density mode of the fishbone layout is a
52 dense mode that renders a tier-two resource profile as a parallelogram.
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- 54 12. The method of claim 1, further including:
55 presenting a summary dialog that describes a component of the fishbone layout in
56 response to a sustained mouseover.
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- 58 13. The method of claim 1, further including:
59 displaying a context menu for a component of the fishbone layout in response to a
60 right-click on the component, the context menu including a drill-down list offering

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resource profile with a visual trait indicating the severity.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the visual trait includes a color selected from a plurality of colors representing a severity scale.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein associating the status with a severity includes using a status metric associated with the monitored resource profile.

22. The method of claim 21, further including:

acquiring notice of a change in the status;

updating the severity; and

re-rendering the hierarchy in a fishbone layout, to include rendering the monitored resource profile to indicate the updated severity.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein updating the severity includes applying an application-wide override to deviate from a behavior indicated by the status metric.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the deviation includes suppressing a change in severity.

25. The method of claim 19, wherein the fishbone layout is included in a snowflake layout.

26. A computer-based method for displaying the status of networked resources, including:

acquiring a logical hierarchy that includes a plurality of resource profiles and a plurality of dependency relationships among resource profiles in the plurality of resource profiles, where the resource profiles represent networked resources;

deriving a visual hierarchy from the logical hierarchy, components of the visual hierarchy corresponding to components of the logical hierarchy, such that the visual hierarchy is a tree; and

rendering the visual hierarchy in a fishbone layout.

122 27. The method of claim 26, wherein the visual hierarchy is a directed tree.

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124 28. The method of claim 26, wherein the fishbone layout is included in a snowflake layout.

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126 29. A computing apparatus for displaying the status of networked resources comprising:

127 a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied
128 therein, including a processor, a main memory, a visual display, a storage device, and a
129 network connection, the program code means comprising:

130 computer readable program code means for causing a computer to represent a
131 hierarchy including a plurality of resource profiles and a plurality of dependency
132 relationships among resource profiles in the plurality of resource profiles, where the
133 resource profiles represent networked resources;

134 computer readable program code means for causing the computer to acquire a status
135 of a monitored resource profile in the plurality of resource profiles; and

136 computer readable program code means for causing the computer to render the
137 hierarchy in a fishbone layout, including rendering a visual representation of the status of
138 the monitored resource profile.

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140 30. A computer-based method for displaying the status of networked resources, including:

141 rendering in a snowflake layout a plurality of fishbone layouts that each feature a
142 hierarchy with a plurality of resource profiles and a plurality of dependency relationships
143 among resource profiles in the plurality of resource profiles, where the resource profiles
144 represent networked resources, and such that each hierarchy shares a common root.

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146 31. The method of claim 30, further including:

147 acquiring a status of a monitored resource; and

148 updating a monitored resource profile of the monitored resource in the snowflake
149 layout to reflect the acquired status.

- 151 32. The method of claim 31, wherein acquiring a status includes: repeatedly acquiring the
152 status at regular intervals.
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- 154 33. The method of claim 32, wherein repeatedly acquiring the status includes acquiring
155 information about properties of the monitored resource that have changed in the most
156 recent interval among the regular intervals.
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- 158 34. The method of claim 31, wherein the monitored resource profile includes a propagation
159 rule for how the acquired status should propagate to dependent resource profiles in
160 consumer dependency relationships with the monitored resource profile; and
161 wherein updating the snowflake layout includes updating the rendering of the
162 dependent resource profiles.
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- 164 35. The method of claim 30, wherein the rendering first displays a fishbone layout in the
165 plurality of fishbone layouts in a display panel, using a first density mode of the fishbone
166 layout; and further including:
167 replacing the first density mode with a second density mode.
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- 169 36. The method of claim 35, wherein the replacing is in response to a change in the ratio of
170 members of the fishbone layout to a size of the display panel.
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- 172 37. The method of claim 35, wherein the first density mode of the fishbone layout is a
173 standard mode that renders a tier-two resource profile as a spine, and the second density
174 mode is a mode for rendering components of the fishbone layout at a higher density,
175 relative to the first density mode.
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- 177 38. The method of claim 35, wherein the first density mode of the fishbone layout is a mode
178 for rendering components of the fishbone layout at a higher density, relative to the second
179 density mode, and the second density mode is a standard mode that renders a tier-two
180 resource profile as a spine.
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182 39. The method of claim 35, wherein:

183 an instance of topological connectivity between a rendering of a first resource profile
184 and a rendering of a second resource profile in the fishbone layout corresponds to an
185 immediate dependency relationship between the first resource profile and the second
186 resource profile, and

187 an absence of topological connectivity between the rendering of a first resource
188 profile and a rendering of a third resource profile in the fishbone layout corresponds to an
189 absence of any immediate dependency relationship between the first resource profile and
190 the third resource profile.

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192 40. The method of claim 36, wherein the second density mode of the fishbone layout is a
193 dense mode that renders a tier-two resource profile as a parallelogram.

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195 41. The method of claim 30, further including:

196 presenting a summary dialog describing a component of the fishbone layout in
197 response to a sustained mouseover.

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199 42. The method of claim 30, further including:

200 displaying a context menu for a component of the fishbone layout in response to a
201 right-click on the component, the context menu including a drill-down list offering
202 procedures to invoke on the component.

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204 43. The method of claim 42, wherein the context menu is customized to the component.

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206 44. The method of claim 42, wherein a procedure in the drill-down list invokes, in response
207 to a selection by the user, a report in a network analysis tool.

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209 45. The method of claim 42, wherein a procedure in the drill-down list causes a re-rendering
210 of the fishbone layout in response to a selection by the user, and wherein the fishbone
211 layout has a root, and the component becomes the root of the fishbone layout.

